

Phase III Implementation of Import Requirements for Wood Packaging Materials

Phase III to Begin July 5, 2006

On July 5, 2006, the Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will begin Phase III of the U.S. import requirements for wood packaging materials (WPM). Phase III provides for full enforcement on all articles of regulated WPM entering the United States. Non compliant regulated WPM will not be allowed to enter the United States. To view the DHS CBP news release pertaining to Phase III implementation, go to the CBP webpage at:

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/news_releases/06292006.xml

Background

On September 16, 2004, the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published the Final Rule (7 CFR 319.40 - Importation of Wood Packaging Material). The Final Rule states that all regulated WPM shall be appropriately treated and marked under an official program developed and overseen by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) in the country of export.

Phase-in Periods

The United States began enforcement of the ISPM 15 standard for regulated WPM entering the United State on September 16, 2005, under a three-phased approach.

Phase 1, from September 16, 2005 through January 31, 2006, provided for informed compliance via account managers and notices posted in connection with cargo that contains noncompliant WPM.

Phase 2, from February 1, 2006 through July 4, 2006, provided for the rejection of violative crates and pallets through re-exportation. Informed compliance via account managers and notices posted in cargo with other types of non compliant WPM was enforced.

Phase 3, beginning July 5, 2006, provides for the full enforcement on all articles of regulated WPM entering the United States. Noncompliant regulated WPM will not be allowed to enter the United States.

Importers and suppliers of U.S. imports are strongly encouraged to have all regulated WPM meet the ISPM 15 standard to avoid delays or rejection of WPM in cargo shipments at U.S. ports of entry due to noncompliance of the ISPM 15 Standard.

Additional Information

For additional information on how CBP handles WPM, please go its website at:

http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/import/commercial_enforcement/wpm/

For information on USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service requirements pertaining to imports of WPM, please go to its website at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/wpm/import.html>

Frequently Asked Questions

CBP has posted frequently asked questions and responses to those questions on its website at:

http://www.cbp.gov/linkhandler/cgov/import/commercial_enforcement/wpm/wpm_faq.ctt/wpm_faq.doc

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